

JUVENILE FAMILY SERVICES THERAPIST

DEFINITION

Under direction, to provide assessment, treatment and clinical interventions with youth and families involved in the probation system, addressing the full spectrum of the needs of minors both before and after their release from custodial institutions, including services provided in County-operated residential care facilities; and to perform related duties as assigned.

CLASS CHARACTERISTICS

The Juvenile Family Services Therapist is a grant-funded position reporting to the Chief Probation Office. An incumbent supports the juvenile probation services of the Probation Department by providing the structure, support and supervision needed to prepare and assist juvenile offenders to re-enter the community and re-integrate into their families. Duties are performed with minimal on-site supervision and regularly require the exercise of independent judgment in care delivery.

EXAMPLES OF DUTIES – Duties may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Manages and facilitates all services related to assigned cases.
- Conducts client assessment in various settings as necessary; develops working clinical diagnoses for clients.
- Plans, implements, evaluates and modifies therapeutic care plans for clients.
- Meets with juveniles, their family members and others to help develop positive and realistic plans for problem resolution.
- Provides individual, family and group counseling, psychotherapy and education; maintains awareness of client behavior or changes in behavior and recognizes potential crises; provides crisis intervention as needed.
- Plans and provides social responsibility training, life skills counseling, drug and alcohol / sex and health education; provides counseling in anger management, violence prevention and conflict resolution; directly provides or coordinates the provision of pre-vocational and vocational training.
- Provides parent peer support, family mentoring and parenting skills development.
- Plans and provides after-care services as juveniles transition back into the community and re-integrate into their families; advocates for clients within the school system as needed.

- Advises juveniles and their family members on available community resources; makes referrals as appropriate.
- Transports clients to various appointments as necessary.
- Develops and maintains cooperative, constructive relationships with clients, family members, members of other disciplines, social agencies and others; coordinates and collaborates with outside agencies for various services as necessary.
- Prepares and maintains accurate client records and other required documentation; prepares cases and recommendations for review by Probation Department personnel.
- Receives and responds appropriately to inquiries, requests for assistance, and complaints in areas of responsibility.
- Compiles data for and prepares reports required by the department, County and other agencies.
- Performs various clerical/administrative tasks as required, including preparing reports and correspondence, entering and retrieving computer data, copying and filing documents, attending meetings, answering the telephone, ordering and maintaining supplies, etc.
- Attends training, workshops, seminars, etc., as necessary to enhance job knowledge and skills.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of:

Applicable state and federal laws, regulations and guidelines.

Probation Department functions, policies, procedures and operations.

Principles, techniques and trends in counseling, psychotherapy and treatment modalities.

Laws and ethics governing social work and counseling.

Diagnostic categories.

Principles and techniques of mental health education and prevention within the community.

Biological, behavioral and environmental aspects of emotional disturbances, mental disabilities and substance abuse.

Scope and activities of public and private health, welfare and juvenile justice agencies and other available community resources.

English usage, spelling, grammar and punctuation; basic mathematics.

Modern office practices and technology.

Ability to:

Organize and manage a caseload.

Make assessments and provide treatment and clinical interventions to youth and families.

Interpret psychological reports.

Diagnose and provide counseling for drug and alcohol abuse issues.

Recognize and provide counseling for suicide issues.

Prepare concise and accurate reports, charts and recommendations regarding client care and treatment.

Prepare and present cases for review by Probation Department staff.

Perform effective counseling of a complex nature with individuals, families and groups.

Communicate compassionately with clients and family members.

Integrate several counseling approaches into a treatment program, and work with a team.

Recognize a potential crisis and deliver crisis intervention services on a 24-hour per day basis.

Exercise sound, independent judgment within scope of authority.

Maintain confidentiality as appropriate.

Perform under flexible, frequently stressful working conditions and react calmly and quickly in emergency situations.

Follow established policies, procedures, protocols and standards, including safety regulations.

Establish and maintain effective working relationships with those contacted in the course of work.

Education:

A Master's degree from an accredited university in social work, counseling, or a closely related field; or licensure as a Marriage, Family and Child Counselor.

Experience:

One year of experience in social work within the criminal justice system, or as a marriage, family and child counselor intern.

Other Requirements:

Must possess a California driver's license and have a satisfactory driving record.

Certification as Licensed Clinical Social Worker is desirable.